

# ment ng fair t have heaper

ough luminous police  
Horsmonden parade to  
blinded, and without  
orders could have had  
ach.

on so many residents  
was because they too  
ny police in one place,  
t Kentish village.

event was a mission  
le, and some protest-  
t police road blocks.  
nd tools were confis-  
ford, although most  
safer to prepare for  
y afterwards.

boulder to shoulder  
n as though sudden-  
red area, while oth-  
rong parade in fear

esence at the protest  
ter waste of money.  
ancellation was the  
but surely this prob-  
vercome by policing  
milar way. It might

d in a trouble-free  
t everyone wanted,  
r not. We can only  
cer around the area  
lone.

## the Week

ed with the way the  
owards us. They've  
nd have treated us  
ham, Romany Rights  
the police presence  
which was aimed to  
nday.  
school uniform hut  
nce a colour makes  
id annoyed parent  
her son's coat was  
School in Paddock  
colour.

n I've ever been in  
ssure of my size,"  
Collier Street, after  
tional 16-plus Model

## Policy

a fair and accurate. If  
ted to do so, or would  
ct of the newspaper.  
Courier Newspapers,  
lls, TN2 3HL.  
still dissatisfied von

# Fair could have been run safely

WELL over 300 years of tradition is  
ended with the court ruling that the  
annual sale of horses by and to trav-  
ellers, mostly Romany, may never be  
held again.

There must be  
legal reasons why  
this decision has  
been upheld and  
supported by the  
home secretary.

But could the fair  
have been continued  
safely if sufficient re-  
sources were made  
available to ensure  
residents had the full  
protection of the law  
and visitors had ade-  
quate toilet and wash-  
ing facilities?

The arguments point  
to a local council and  
police force with inad-  
equate resources to host  
this event in a proper  
manner.

The threatened de-  
monstrations by the tra-  
ditional participants of  
the horse fair will cer-  
tainly cost more than if  
the event had been al-  
lowed to proceed with  
adequate support.

KEITH BROWN  
Cranbrook Road  
Hawkhurst

## Merry meet

HORSMONDEN'S fair  
was older than English  
"riding to hounds" in its  
modern form.

Gypsies have held  
their annual fair for  
trade and sports  
through all the 400-odd  
years, they have lived in  
this country.

Why did the Country-  
side Alliance not speak  
out against the dull co-  
horts of the manage-  
ment society, and op-  
pose all those in coun-  
cils and elsewhere, who  
took away the rights of  
an ethnic group, be-  
cause it so clearly repre-  
sented Merry England  
and not Middle Eng-  
land?

JONATHAN PARSONS  
Roper's Gate  
Tunbridge Well

## Policing

THE EVENTS in  
Horsmonden last Sun-  
day were at once farci-  
cal and disturbing.

The annual gypsy  
Horsemaif was original-  
ly cancelled by the local  
council because of the  
expense of policing it.  
This has now been  
changed by certain "ar-  
rivistes" on the council  
to "for health and safety  
reasons".

Nobody - neither vil-  
lagers nor gypsies were  
consulted prior to this  
action. The applause  
for the Romanys from  
the villagers on Sunday  
and the fact that many  
of the latter chose to  
join the march showed  
that a considerable ma-  
jority of people in  
Horsmonden were not  
in favour of the ban.

The farcical element  
of the affair was provid-  
ed by the police who  
were present in such  
numbers (it would be in-  
teresting to know the of-  
ficial figure) that they  
might have been provid-  
ing security for a G7  
summit meeting.

Of rather more con-  
cern was the fact that vil-  
lagers were banned  
from their own Green  
from Friday evening  
until Monday morning  
under threat of being  
"dealt with according-  
ly". This draconian and  
unnecessary measure re-  
sulted from consulta-  
tion with Jack Straw  
who else! In addition,  
the police interrogation  
of people arriving in the  
village that day was out-  
rageous - at least one  
woman was asked for  
details of her annual in-  
come!

The behaviour of the  
Romanys was, through-  
out, admirably digni-

## Viewpoint



CHURCH LANE: Tonbridge Camera Club member Alan Young of Dane  
Park, Tonbridge took this picture in historic Hadlow. Camera:  
Yashicamat with yellow filter. Film: 120 FPA

EVERY week in Viewpoint the Courier will publish a picture from Kent and  
Sussex taken by a reader. It could be a rural view or any other picture which  
is special to you.

If you have a picture you would like to be considered for inclusion, send  
the print to The Editor, Courier Newspapers, Longfield Road, Tunbridge  
Wells, TN2 3HL. Please give details of when and where the picture was taken  
and details of the equipment you used.

fied. It is hoped the  
council and those mem-  
bers who saw fit to im-  
pose this undemocratic  
ban will now see sense -  
or the people of  
Horsmonden can look  
forward to repeats of  
the whole sorry perfor-  
mance for years to  
come.

ROBIN BELLINGER  
Maidstone Road,  
Horsmonden

## Exam marks

HAVING just taken my  
GCSEs at Tonbridge  
Grammar School for  
Girls and taken extra  
exams and taken some  
early 1 class real suc-  
cess not as A\*s but per-  
haps Bs if you were ex-  
pecting less or Cs in a  
subject you struggled  
in.

Real success comes  
from creating a happy  
environment for the  
students to learn in and  
encouragement of all  
students.

It's a pity league-ta-  
bles can't show the im-  
portant side to a school.

For example, how  
happy the students are  
there or how much time  
is spent not doing  
school-work but devel-  
oping the individual.

I found no advantage  
in taking GCSEs early.  
All it achieved was  
putting me under extra  
pressure to make the  
school look good.

My happiness and  
opinions did not matter.

Of course the schools  
want to look good so  
they will get a good in-  
take but I hope parents

look for more than  
grades in a school.

I believe that we must  
judge personal success.

Not everyone can  
achieve A\*s. We have  
talents in different  
areas. So then I ask,  
why do the people  
achieving better grades  
than they expected not  
get mentioned in the  
newspapers because  
they did not get any  
A\*s? Don't those people  
show success too?

What about schools  
who may not have the  
highest exam grades  
but have had outstand-  
ing success in drama or  
sport? Does this not  
class the school as suc-  
cessful?

HANNAH FLYNN  
Elmhurst Avenue  
Pembury

## Information

### LATE CHEMISTS

Paddock Wood, P.J.  
& R. Martel, 12 Com-  
mercial Road: Mon to  
Fri (except Wed) 6.30.  
Wed 9am-1pm, 2-6pm.  
Sat 5pm.

Tunbridge Wells.  
Safeway Pharmacy,  
Vale Road: Mon to Wed  
8pm, Thur & Fri 9pm,  
Sat until 8pm. Carrs

Sun 10am-12noon.  
Godkins, 5 High Street:  
Mon-Sat 6pm. Amex,  
106 Greggwood Road:  
6pm, Sat 5pm.  
Watson Pharmacy, 3 &  
5 Quarry Road: Mon to  
Sat 6pm.

Tonbridge. Castle  
Pharmacy, 119A High  
Street: Mon-Fri 5.30pm,  
Sat until 1pm. Clarke &  
Coleman, 140 High  
Street: Mon to Fri until  
7pm, Sat until 5.30pm.

5.30pm. Quarry Hill  
Pharmacy, 25 Quarry  
Hill Road, Sunday  
11am-12noon.

DENTAL SERVICE  
Tunbridge Wells Den-  
talling (Kerr, FUGA

Sussex Hospital's Den-  
tal Unit, Daily 7-  
10.30pm. Saturday and  
Sunday 9.30am-12  
noon. Telephone 01892  
517771.

### TIDE TABLE

Fri 00.34, 12.52; Sat  
01.06, 13.23; Sun 01.39,  
13.55

### SEND Y

Courier Nav  
5 Monso  
Tunbridg  
TN1

E-m  
letters@cou